UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/281
13 July 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
Items 92 and 114 (c)
of the preliminary list*

THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF CROATIA

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Letter dated 12 July 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the "Appeal for the prevention of further ethnic cleansing in the occupied parts of the Republic of Croatia" written on 25 May 1995 by representatives of the Hungarian minority in the Republic of Croatia.

I would kindly request your assistance in distributing the present letter and its annex as a document of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly under items 92 and 114 (c) of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative

* A/50/50/Rev.1.

95-20861 (E) 140795 170795

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Annex

APPEAL OF 25 MAY 1995 FOR THE PREVENTION OF FURTHER ETHNIC CLEANSING IN THE OCCUPIED PARTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

We call upon the political forums, institutions and all people of goodwill to do their utmost to prevent the continued ethnic cleansing in the occupied parts of the Republic of Croatia, started back in 1991 by the rebel Serbs. We are appealing in the name of the members of the Hungarian minority in Croatia who want to live in peace and to return to their ancestral homes.

Of the total number of the Hungarian minority in Croatia, about 40 per cent currently lives in exile, 20 per cent in the occupied territories and the remainder in the free parts of Croatia.

In the occupied Baranya and Eastern Slavonia, where most Hungarians from Croatia lived before 1991, the Serbs are continuing the practice of ethnic cleansing designed to do away with the non-Serb population completely. In some villages of Baranya, the homes of Hungarians and Croats are being marked yellow and red. The letter "U" ustasha painted red on a home means utter insecurity for all those who live in it.

This certainly evokes the darkest days of fascism when the Jews, deprived of all rights, were marked with the yellow star.

The international community favours a peaceful, negotiated settlement. The Croatian Government has in principle accepted a peaceful way of solving the problems. However, four years have passed since the beginning of the conflict, during which time the Serbs have largely completed the ethnic cleansing of the occupied areas. The non-Serbs who have remained in their homes continue to be expelled, killed, driven to forced labour, deprived of their property. Now their homes are being marked. How long are we supposed just to wait and see? How long are we supposed to hope that the Serbian politicians will realize that the violation of human rights no longer pays? When shall we be allowed finally to return to our homes?

It should by now have dawned on everybody that the chief cause of instability in Europe today is the policy guided by the ideology of Greater Serbia.

(Signed) Ferenc FARAGO
M.P. representing the
Hungarian minority in
the Croatian Parliament

(Signed) Horváth LÁSZLÓ
Vice President
Democratic Union of
Hungarians in Croatia